

Senate Resolution 90

By: Senators Unterman of the 45th and Harrell of the 40th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the March of Dimes and recognizing February 7, 2019, as March of Dimes
2 Day at the state capitol; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the March of Dimes Foundation is a pioneer in improving the health of infants
4 and women of childbearing age by preventing birth defects, premature birth, and infant
5 mortality; and

6 WHEREAS, the March of Dimes was founded in 1938 to fight polio and funded the
7 development of two vaccines that virtually eliminated the crippling disease, and in 1958,
8 having achieved its initial mission, shifted its attention from polio to the prevention of
9 preterm birth, the greatest contributing factor to newborns dying within their first month of
10 life; and

11 WHEREAS, nearly half a million babies are born preterm every year in the United States,
12 and over 14,716 preterm births occurred in Georgia in 2017, a figure which represents one
13 in every nine babies born in this state; and

14 WHEREAS, these dire statistics were a major reason for Georgia's receiving a grade of "D"
15 in a 2018 report by the March of Dimes on premature birth rates among the states in the
16 nation; and

17 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia has one of the highest rates of maternal mortality in the
18 nation with 79 deaths occurring in 2013; and

19 WHEREAS, the March of Dimes is committed to reducing the number of maternal deaths
20 in the state through proven prevention methods and education; and

21 WHEREAS, volunteers and staff of the March of Dimes will be at the capitol on February
22 7, 2019, to raise awareness among legislators about the serious consequences of preterm birth
23 and to advocate for policies to address this significant public health challenge.

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
25 commend the efforts of the March of Dimes and its selfless volunteers for their past, present,
26 and future work on behalf of mothers and babies in this state, throughout the nation, and
27 around the world and recognize February 7, 2019, as March of Dimes Day at the state
28 capitol.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
30 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the March of
31 Dimes Georgia Chapter.